

PROPOSED CLAIM 1

1. (Amended) A national security method [of obstructing] functioning as a prerequisite to a person [from] wishing to negotiate [negotiating] a transaction with another person, group, or entity in a population and selectively obstructing the person from negotiating the transaction, comprising the steps of:
 - a) selecting for each person in [a selected section of a] the population of a country an identifying biometric characteristic unique to that person;
 - b) determining profile information of each person in the population;
 - c) storing the identifying characteristic and the profile information of each person in the population in individual portable data devices to be carried by respective persons, the data devices including an active status and an inactive status;
 - d) storing the identifying characteristic and the profile information of each person in the population collectively at a central location;
 - e) determining an identifying biometric characteristic and the profile information of a person wishing to negotiate a transaction from the portable data device carried by the person;

- f) comparing the identifying characteristic and the profile information determined in step e) with the corresponding identifying characteristic and the profile information prestored in step d) for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
- g) obtaining profile information and biometric characteristic directly from the person in step e);
- h) comparing the identifying characteristic and the profile information obtained in steps e) and g) for a successful or unsuccessful comparison;
- i) determining an active or inactive status of the data device carried by the person in step e);
- j) obstructing the person in step e) from negotiating the transaction if an unsuccessful comparison is indicated in either steps f) or h), or if the status of the data device is determined to be inactive in step i); [and]
- k) notifying an appropriate authority if the status of the data device is determined to be inactive in step i)[.] ; and
- l) wherein the person in step e) is barred from negotiating a transaction with any person, group, or entity in the population if an unsuccessful comparison is indicated in any of the steps f), h), or i).